

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-06

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EUR-08 SAB-01 IO-03 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 /047 W

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R 021137Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0319

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0380

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US QA

SUBJ: QATARI GREAT EXPECTATIONS FROM U.S. MID EAST POLICY
REASSESSMENT

1. FULL RANGE OF EMBASSY'S QATARI CONTACTS FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT CURRENT U.S. MID EAST POLICY REASSESSMENT CAN REACH NO OTHER CONCLUSION BUT THAT U.S. MUST FINALLY GET TOUGH WITH ISRAEL TO PRODUCE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS THAT WILL MAKE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. FROM AMIR ON DOWN, SUSPENSION OF SECRETARY'S MID EAST MISSION VIEWED AS MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR U.S. IN RECOGNIZING THAT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE IS SOLE OBSTACLE TO MID EAST PEACE.

2. QATARIS HAVE SEIZED ON EVERY SCRAP OF "EVIDENCE" TO SUPPORT
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BELIEF THAT U.S. READY TO PUT SCREWS ON ISRAELIS. AMIR HIMSELF

INTERPRETED SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO HIM ON SUSPENSION OF MID EAST MISSION AS BLAMING ISRAELIS (DOHA 0341). MEDIA REPORTS, SUCH AS ON PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW COMMENTS DESCRIBING ISRAEL AS INFLEXIBLE, SECRETARY'S ALLEGED STOPPING OF AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY F-15S TO ISRAEL, SENATOR MCGOVERN'S CURRENT TRIP IN AREA AND MEETING WITH ARAFAT, REPORTED CONGRESSIONAL DISPLEASURE WITH ISRAELI POSTURE, AND U.S. OFFICIALS' PRAISE OF SADAT'S STATESMANSHIP, ARE CITED AS FURTHER PROOF THAT REASSESSMENT WILL RESULT IN U.S. COMPELLING ISRAEL TO MAKE PEACE WITH ARABS.

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DEPT SPOKESMAN'S LINE, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. REASSESSMENT IS JUST THAT AND IS NOT PUNITIVELY AIMED AT ANY PARTY. WE HAVE ALSO POINTED TO SECRETARY'S REFUSAL TO ASSIGN BLAME TO ANY PARTY FOR SUSPENSION OF HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. OUR COMMENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE HAD LITTLE DAMPENING EFFECT ON LOCAL GREAT EXPECTATIONS. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT QATARI EUPHORIA THAT MILLENNIUM IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD ARABS IS AT HAND IS WIDELY SHARED IN AREA. ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE TEMPTING TO RIDE THIS ARAB HIGH, ASSUME DEPT IS DOING SOME THINKING ON HOW WE CAN CUSHION INEVITABLE LETDOWN WHEN ARABS PERCEIVE THAT THEIR HOPES FOR COMPLETE U.S. POLICY REVERSAL TOWARDS ISRAEL ARE OVERBLOWN.
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